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Date: 03 Oct 2002

To: Lee J. Fleckenstein	From: Elena Tsoy				
Application/Control Number: 09/608,818	Art Unit: 1762				
Fax No.: 585-262-4133	Phone No.: (703) 605-1171				
Voice No.;	Return Fax No.: (703) 872-9310				
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Number of pages 2 including this page

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October 3, 2002

Examiner Elena Tsoy USPTO Fax No. (703)746-7175

Dear Examiner Tsoy:

Thank you very much for your effort and cooperation in our extensive discussions of Application Serial No. 09/608,818. I have not yet been able to get in touch with the lead inventor, Jiann Chen, but I would like to call your attention to the following recent patents granted to Dr. Chen, all of which disclose a fluorocarbon thermoplastic random copolymer having the same ranges of the three fluoromonomers included in the composition of the instant application:

U.S. 6,444,741 U.S. 6,429,249 U.S. 6,419,615 U.S. 6,416,819 U.S. 6,372,833 U.S. 6,361,829 U.S. 6,355,352

Hartley et al., U.S. 4,853,737 is of record in all of these cases except for U.S. 6,419,615.

Thank you again for your willingness to discuss this case with me.

Lee Fleckenstein



JAECKLE FLEISCHMANN & MUGEL, LLP

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To:

Examiner Elana Troy

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fluoroelastomers offer better fluid resistance than A type fluoroelastomer. There is a full range of Viton® B grades that accommodate a variety of manufacturing processes including injection and compression molding, extrusion, and calendaring.

Viton® F:

Viton® F is a grade of fluoroelastomer terpolymers, that is they are polymerized from three monomers, vinyl fluoride (VF2), hexafluoropropylene (HFP), and tetrafluoroethylene (TFE). Viton® F fluoroelastomers offer the best fluid resistance of all Viton® types. F types are particularly useful in applications requiring resistance to fuel permeation. There is a range of Viton® F grades to accomodate various manufacturing requirements.

High Performance Grade:

Viton® GB, GBL:

Viton® GB and GBL are grades of fluoroelastomer terpolymers, that is they are polymerized from three monomers, vinyl fluoride (VF2), hexafluoropropylene (HFP), and tetrafluoroethylene (TFE). Viton® GB and GBL use peroxide cure chemistry that result in superior resistance to steam, acid, and aggressive engine oils. There is full range of GB and GBL types that can accommodate most rubber processing requirements including compression, injection and transfer molding, extrusion, and calendering.

Viton® GLT:

Viton® GLT is a fluoroelastomer designed to retain the high heat and the chemical resistance of general use grades of Viton® fluoroelastomer, while improving the low temperature flexibility of the material. Glass transition temperatures (Tg) of materials are indicative of low temperature performance in typical elastomer applications. Viton® GLT shows an 8 to 12°C lower Tg than general use Viton® grades. There is a range of GLT products to accommodate various processing conditions.

Viton® GFLT:

Viton® GFLT is a fluoroelastomer designed to retain the high heat and the superior chemical resistance of the GF High Performance types, while improving the low temperature performance of the material. Viton® GFLT shows a 6 to 10°C lower Tg than general use Viton® grades. There is a range of GFLT products to accommodate various processing conditions.

Key: 1=Excellent, 2=Very Good, 3=Good, NR=Not Recommended

Relative Chemical Compatib	ility and	Me	chan	ical Pro	pert	es of	Viton®
Fluoroelastomers							
	Viton®—General Use Grade Types			Viton®—High-Performance Grade Types			
Chemical Environment	A	В	F	GB, GBL	CF	GLT	GFLT
Automotive and aviation fuels	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Automotive fuels oxygenated with MEOH, ETOH, MTBE, etc.	NR	2	1	2	1	NR	1
Engine lubricating oil, SE and SF	2	1	1	1	ī	1	1
Engine lubricating oil, SG and SH	3	2	1	1	1	2	1
Aliphatic hydrocarbon process fluids, chemicals	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Aromatic hydrocarbon process fluids, chemicals	2	2	I	1	1	2	1
Aqueous fluids, steam, mineral acids	3	2	2	1	Ī	1	1
Compression and low-temperature performance							
Resistance to compression set	1	2	2	2	3	2	2
Low-temperature flexibility	2	2	3	2	3	1	1

Viton® is a registered trademark of Dupont Dow Blastomer

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Comparison of Dupont Dow Viton® Fluoroelastomers

There are three major general use grades of Viton® fluoroelastomer: A, B and F. They differ primarily in their resistance to fluids, and in particular aggressive lubricating oils and oxygenated fuels, such as methanol and ethanol automotive fuel blends. There is also a class of high performance Viton® grades: GB, GBL, GP, GLT, and GFLT.

General Use Grades:

Viton® A: (vinylidene fluoride and hexafluoropropylene)

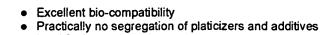
Viton® A is a family of fluoroelastomer dipolymers, that is they are polymerized from two monomers, vinylidene fluoride (VF2) and hexafluoropropylene (HFP). Viton® A fluoroelastomers are general purpose types that are suited for general molded goods such as orings and v-rings, gaskets, and other simple and complex shapes. There is a full range of Viton® A grades that accomodate various manufacturing processes including transfer and injection molding, extrusion, compression molding, and calendering.

Viton® B: (vinylidene, hexafluoropropylene and tetrafluoroethylene)

Viton® B is a grade of fluoroelastomer terpolymers, that is they are polymerized from three monomers, vinylidene (VF2), hexafluoropropylene (HFP), and tetrafluoroethylene (TFE). Viton® B







Ideal for low temperatures

Waterproof

· Resistant to ozone, radiation and sun light

Does not deform

Silicon peroxide; hot vulcanized

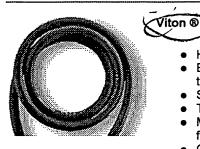
Temperature range: -50 °C to +230 °C

 Material: Polydimethyl siloxane with siliceous earth and silicon additives, translucent white. Excellent resistance to initial pressure

 Cleaning/sterilization: Clean with hot water and suds, do not use detergents, rinse with destilled water

 Restriction: Not suitable for concentrated solvents, oils, acids or dilute caustic soda. Relatively high permeability to gas

For tube sizes please refer to tubing selection table



Highly resistant to chemicals

 Excellent resistance to corrosive media, solvents and oils at high temperatures

Slightly permeable to gas

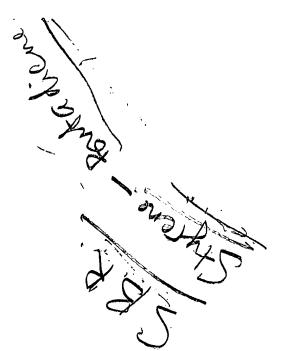
Temperature range: {30 °C to +200 °C

Material: Fluorocarbon rubber, thermoformed Viton B (67 % fluorinated), opaque black

 Cleaning/sterilization: Can be sterilized at 249 °C for a period of 16 hours in a circulating air heating cabinet

· Restriction: Limited life

For tube sizes please refer to tubing selection table



le. (thermoelectric thermometer). An instrument composed of two wires made of dissimilar metals or semiconducting materials that are joined at one end (the measuring junction), the other end being the reference junction, which is maintained at a known temperature (usually 0C). The difference in temperature between the measuring junction and the reference junction generates an electromotive force that is proportional to the temperature difference. Thermocouples are applicable over a range of -200C to 1800C. The most suitable conducting materials are iron-constantan, platinumplatinum-rhodium, copper-constantan, and Chromel-Alumel; graphite-silicon carbide is used in the metallurgical field. Thermocouples are essential for determinations of extreme temperatures that are beyond the range of liquid-in-glass thermometers. Their industrial applications include molten metals, fuel beds, ceramic kilns, furnaces, etc.; in laboratories they are used for both high-temperature and cryogenic research. They are also applicable to intermediate temperatures in cases where conventional thermometers are impracticable. See thermoelectricity.

thermodynamic potential. See Nernst potential.

thermodynamics. A rigorously mathematical analysis of energy relationships (heat, work, temperature, and equilibrium), the principles of which were first elaborated by J. Willard Gibbs in the mid-19th century. It describes systems whose states are determined by thermal parameters, such as temperature, in addition to mechanical and electromagnetic parameters. A system is a geometric section of the universe, whose boundaries may be fixed or varied, and that may contain matter or energy or both. The state of a system is a reproducible condition, defined by assigning fixed numerical values to the measurable attributes of the system. These attributes may be wholly reproduced as soon as a fraction of them has been reproduced. In this case the fractional number of attributes determines the state, and is referred to as the number of variables of state or the number of degrees of freedom of the

The concept of temperature can be evolved as soon as a means is available for determining when a body is "hotter" or "colder." Such means might involve the measurement of a physical parameter such as the volume of a given mass of the body. When a "hotter" body, A, is placed in contact with a "colder" body, B, it is observed that A becomes "colder" and B "hotter." When no further changes occur, and the joint system involving the two bodies are said to have the same temperature. Thus temperature can only be measured at equilibrium. Therefore thermodynamics is a science of equilibrium, and a thermodynamic state is necessarily an equilibrium state. Thermodynamics is a macroscopic discipline,

dealing only with the properties of matter and energy in bulk, and does not recognize atomic and molecular structure. Although severely limited in this respect, it has the advantage of being completely insensitive to any change in our ideas concerning molecular phenomena, so that its laws have broad and permanent generality. Its chief service is to provide mathematical relations among the measurable parameters of a system in equilibrium so that, for example, a variable like pressure may be computed when the temperature is known, and vice versa

thermodynamics, chemical. See chemical thermodynamics.

thermoelectricity. Electricity produced directly by applying a temperature difference to various parts of electrically conducting or semiconducting materials. Usually two dissimilar materials are used, and the points of contact are kept at different temperatures (Peltier effect). Many temperaturemeasuring devices (thermocouples, thermopiles) work on this principle, since the voltage is proportional to the temperature difference. Metallic conductors are usually used for these "thermometers," which produce a rather small current. A newer use for the effect is as a source of electrical energy, i.e., a means of direct conversion of heat into electricity (or vice versa) without the use of a generator (or motor). The materials used for these thermoelectric couples are semiconductors (e.g., tellurium; zinc antimonide; lead, bismuth, and germanium tellurides; samarium sulfide) or thermoelectric alloys, all of which produce relatively large currents. Several of these "cells" are then hooked in series much like the cells of a battery.

"Thermoflex" A [Du Pont]. TM for a rubber antioxidant containing 25% di-p-methoxydiphenylamine (CH₃OC₆H₄)₂NH; 25% diphenyl-p-phenylenediamine C₆H₄(NHC₆H₅)₂; and 50% phenyl- β -naphthylamine C₁₀H₇NHC₆H₅.

Properties: Dark-gray pellets. D 1.21, fp above 67C. Use: Tire carcasses, transmission belts, etc., to promote resistance to flexing at operating temperatures.

See antioxidant.

thermofor. A heat-transfer medium. See coolant.

thermoforming. (1) See reforming. (2) Forming or shaping a thermoplastic sheet by heating the sheet above its melting point, fitting it along the contours of a mold with pressure supplied by vacuum or other force, and removing it from the mold after cooling below its softening point. The method is applied to polystyrenes, acrylics, vinyls, polyolefins, cellulosics, etc.

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